

## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 158

By Odom

A RESOLUTION urging the President and Congress of the United States to properly address the growing problem of Illegal immigration.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly realize that there is a deep and pervasive need for substantive change in the immigration policies of these United States; and

WHEREAS, this Legislature is fully aware of the growing existence of illegal immigrants in nearly every quarter of American society; and

WHEREAS, the census bureau estimates that there are currently between eight and nine million illegal immigrants currently living in the United States, a number which increases by an average of 500,000 each year; and

WHEREAS, the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) estimates that it distributed 1.5 million green cards to illegal immigrants in the 1990s, due to a legal immigration process which embraces illegal immigration and encourages it through legal exemptions; and

WHEREAS, according to the INS, only 412,000 illegal immigrants were removed from the country during the 1990s, during which time five million illegal immigrants entered the United States; and

WHEREAS, the costs of illegal immigration present a significant financial burden to each state in the form of expenditures for education, criminal justice, and emergency medical care, a burden this State cannot rectify as Tennessee has at its disposal neither a department of immigration and naturalization nor a border patrol force; and

WHEREAS, the explosive growth in numbers of illegal immigrants over the past few years reflect a failure by the President of the United States, his administration, and the members of Congress to implement procedures which adequately address this issue; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee State Legislature firmly believes illegal immigration to be an issue which needs to be addressed in a timely and efficient manner; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that even as the members of this General Assembly take decisive steps to address the issue of illegal immigration to the fullest extent of our powers, we strongly urge the President and Congress of these United States to resolve this issue in a timely and efficient manner, to pass a comprehensive immigration policy which allows those wishing to immigrate to this country to do so only in a lawful manner, and to ensure that American society is not threatened by a decline in public safety resulting from those who choose to enter this country in a fashion which does not conform to the law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an enrolled copy of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security, the Governor of the State of Tennessee, the Speaker and the Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, the President and Secretary of the United States Senate, and each member of the Tennessee Congressional Delegation with this final clause omitted from such copy.